

freedom to be heard, “to share in the decisions of government which shape men’s lives.” He stated that government “must be limited in its power to act against its people so there may be no . . . arbitrary imposition of pains or penalties on an ordinary citizen by officials high or low.”

Senator Kennedy went on to say:

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Sergei Magnitsky stood up for an ideal. He acted to improve the lot of others. He struck at injustice. He was and remains a ripple of hope.

On this sad anniversary of Sergei Magnitsky’s murder, let us all recommit ourselves to helping those in Russia and around the world who seek their rightful share in the governance of their own countries and who deserve the confidence of doing so without fear of harm. If we do this, Sergei will not have died in vain.

I am confident that one day there will be a monument in stone and bronze to Sergei in his native Russia. Until that day, the law that bears his name will serve as his memorial.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 437, Julianne Smith, of Michigan, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Julianne Smith, of Michigan, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Smith nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from New Hampshire.

CONFIRMATION OF JULIANNE SMITH

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I would also like to speak to Julie Smith and her qualifications to be Ambassador to NATO.

Julie is, really, very well qualified to represent the United States within our biggest and most significant security alliance. Her 25-year career has focused on transatlantic relations and security. She has served the country as Deputy National Security Advisor and Acting National Security Advisor to then-Vice President Biden.

In 2012, she was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Medal for Exceptional Public Service. She has worked at some of the country’s most esteemed think tanks that address European issues.

As the U.S. confronts challenges around the world, we need to convey our firm commitment to our allies and our alliances. For this reason, it is absolutely critical that we put Julie Smith in place as Ambassador to NATO as soon as possible.

I am really very pleased that those who had a hold on her nomination have finally lifted those holds. It is unfortunate that it has taken so long because, as we look at what is happening in Eastern Europe in particular, and as we look at the migrants who are being used by Belarus—and I assume that Vladimir Putin is behind this, as well, to send those migrants to the Polish border as a way to distract from what is happening in Eastern Europe—clearly, the more equipped NATO is to help deal with those challenges, the better.

If we are going to participate with NATO, we need to have an Ambassador on the ground. It should have happened several months ago, when she was nominated. So I am very pleased that she is going to be able to assume her ambassadorship very soon. As co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group, I look forward to working with her in her new role.

But this should serve as a wake-up call to those people in this Chamber

who continue to have holds on critical nominees who are important to this country’s national security. As I talk to U.S. allies, it is clear that the delay in sending Ambassadors to posts around the world is having a real impact on our relations with our partners; and in the absence of U.S. representation, they are questioning our commitment to our bilateral relationships.

Now, I would like to think that my colleagues who have put these holds on our nominees aren’t doing it in an effort to undermine America’s security and to undermine this administration in protecting the United States, but, clearly, that is the impact of what they are doing.

I have heard from a lot of my colleagues over the last months about U.S. standing in the world after our withdrawal from Afghanistan. Yet, as they are blocking administration nominees who would work with our allies, who would engage in our shared priorities and values, who would listen to concerns, and who could work together, they are just exacerbating any issues that may exist.

I don’t know why they are doing this, but, right now, there are 58 other State Department nominees who are awaiting confirmation on the floor. Every day that passes that we have no Ambassadors in place in countries around the world, our national security is compromised, and I have got a very close-to-home example.

Earlier today, I met with Diane Foley, the mother of James Foley, who was the first American killed by ISIS, and she has done yeoman’s work with her foundation to try to help the families of hostages who are being held in countries around the world. She was talking about what we could do to help those families and to do everything to try and help them get their loved ones back—to free the hostages who are being wrongly held around the world.

Well, one of the things we talked about is the fact that, in many of those countries, we don’t have Ambassadors because we have holds on those folks who are so important to help those families and to help address American interests in those countries. So what our colleagues are doing by holding up these nominees is undermining the national security of the United States. By grinding to a halt our State Department nominees, a small group of my Republican colleagues has allowed partisan brinkmanship to pervade a critical aspect of our national security.

You know, there was a very important principle established after World War II about partisan politics ending at the water’s edge. It is unfortunate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not continuing to support that principle.

We are stronger and safer when our diplomatic corps—those individuals who support Americans and U.S. foreign policy around the world—are supported by capable, Senate-vetted, and Senate-confirmed Ambassadors.